| Year | Rural (%) | | | Urban (%) | | | All (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Person | Male | Female | Person | |
| 1990-2000 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 4.5 | 5.7 | 4.7 | 2.2 |
| 2004-05 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 3.8 | 6.9 | 4.5 | 2.3 |

(b) to (d) The results of these surveys indicate that while unemployment rate in the rural areas has marginally gone up, in the urban areas, it has declined. On the whole, unemployment rate has marginally gone up from 2.2% in 1999-2000 to 2.3% during 2004-05.

**Campaign for social security legislation**

81. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently Self Employed Women Association (SEWA), trade union and other organisations together launched a campaign at Raj Ghat for Social Security legislation for workers in the unorganized sectors;

(b) if so, their specific demands and whether Government is considering to meet their demands, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A comprehensive lagislation on Social Security for unorganised sector workers is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

**Contaminated drinking water in rural areas**

†82. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether there exists a possibility of spreading of different types of health related diseases on consumption of contaminated and fluoride contained drinking water;

(b) whether the villagers in rural areas are bound to consume contaminated water; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide clean potable water in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Spreading of health related diseases occur due to consumption of biologically contaminated water only. However, various types of water related diseases like dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis and non-skeletal fluorosis occur if drinking water containing fluoride level beyond the permissible limit of 1.5 mg/l is consumed by the people over a prolonged period of time.

(b) and (c) Rural drinking water is a State subject. Government of India extends financial and technical assistance to States for supply of safe drinking water in rural areas by Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Disinfection of drinking water is one of the unit processes adopted by the State Governments for providing bacteriologically free drinking water in rural areas. For providing safe drinking water to water quality affected habitations, State Governments are required to monitor the quality of water and advise consumers to take water from safe sources, if available nearby. For treatment of contaminated water, many technologies like Nalgonda technique, Reverse Osmosis, Desalination, Activated Alumina based domestic filters, iron removal filters, etc. are used. Water from alternate safe sources is also provided.

In order to tackle water quality problems, a Sub-Mission programme was introduced in 1991. This has recently been revised for providing focused funding to arsenic, fluoride, nitrate, salinity and iron affected habitations and by releasing the 20% of ARWSP funds from the Centre only to water quality affected States, after receipt of formal proposal from them along with the minutes of the State level Scheme Sanctioning Committee meeting and level of contamination in each habitation. Addressing all water quality problem habitations is a component of Bharat Nirman.